



"Where People and Trees Have Deep Roots and Grow Strong"

SomerSet TOWN JOURNAL



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March 2018

Energy Efficiency Seminar Report

By Robin Barr, Chair, Environment Committee, Essex Avenue

The January 28 Energy Efficiency Seminar, sponsored by Somerset's Environment Committee, recently aired on Channel 16 and is now available for viewing on their website mmctv.org, in the Special Events section. I heartily recommend it and learned a lot myself. For those who cannot spend the time to view the seminar, here are a few highlights:

- Larissa Johnson, of Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection, explained the EmPOWER Maryland program. We all pay into that fund as part of our electricity bill. PEPCO uses the money to introduce efficiencies into how we use electricity at home. So how are they doing that? First the company offers a free quick home check-up to anyone who requests it. The visit takes an hour or so. The analyst assesses a home's energy use, recommends energy-saving improvements, and starts our savings right away by installing energy-saving products. PEPCO also offers the Home Performance with Energy Star audit. It lasts up to four hours and includes adding several simple measures, e.g., water-heater pipe wraps, shower adapters, power strips, etc. You can schedule a free, quick energy check-up on line at: <https://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/appointment-request>; or call 1-866-353-5798. For the Energy Star audit, contact one of their participating contractors (listed on their site) directly.

- Ron Kaltenbaugh, President of the Electric Vehicles Association of Greater Washington, D.C., reminded the audience of the recent extent of global warming. Using figures for the northern hemisphere, he showed a changing distribution of temperatures in recent years that opened up many eyes in the audience. His talk centered on electric cars and their role in reducing pollution and carbon dioxide emissions. A gas-powered car burns gasoline to generate power. In an electric car, nothing burns and no carbon dioxide is emitted. As Ron pointed out, the electricity that charges their batteries is generated from the fuel mix that power stations use. They do cause pollution, but bearing that

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Barton Rubenstein explains his projects

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ON MY MIND

Time to Make a Tough Decision

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

It is with some regret, and a touch of sadness, that I write this column.

For several generations (at least) Somerset young people have enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to sled on Cumberland Avenue during almost every major snowstorm in the DC region. Children have gotten exercise, learned a skill, and bonded with friends. Parents have delighted in this rite of passage.

The establishment of this practice was written in the Town Code some years ago, making it all perfectly legal. Unfortunately the time has come to bring this to an end.

Over the last several years, the Council, Manager, Town Attorney and I have been reviewing and updating our written laws with a fine-toothed comb. Accordingly, we have considered the potential dangers surrounding this particular activity, especially if sledders and motorists do not exercise appropriate caution. The Town also has a legal responsibility to keep the streets open for all the residents to use, and we are consistently diligent about plowing, shoveling and sanding. While we are fortunate that we have not had a serious incident on the sledding hill (that we know of), to me that doesn't justify letting the sledding go on.

Therefore, I am publicly urging the Council in the near future to introduce and pass an amendment to end sledding on our streets. And it is my hope that our townspeople will come out in support of this action.

I know that there are many other sledding hills in the area where our children can enjoy this winter activity. And, after all, with climate change, the region does not get the amount of snowfall as in the past. It's almost the end of winter and we haven't had one sledding day this season!

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SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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Deadline for copy and ads is the 15th of the month at 4:30 p.m.

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4510 Cumberland Ave.
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www.townofsomerset.com

GENERAL PERMITS

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

5512 TRENT STREET

- 1 False Cypress
- 1 River Birch

5500 UPPINGHAM STREET

- 1 Red Maple

4823 DORSET AVENUE

- 2 Ash

5501 TRENT STREET

- 1 Red Maple

4719 DORSET AVENUE

- 1 Horse Chestnut

Energy Efficiency Seminar Report

in mind, electric cars are still considerably cleaner than gas-powered cars. As the energy mix used by power stations improves, electric cars will become cleaner still. When asked whether he misses gas-powered driving, Ron explained that electric cars, with instant torque, are more fun to drive. Mass-market electric cars are now available that allow a full day's driving before the battery loses charge.

- Somerset's own **Barton Rubenstein** (Dorset), an internationally-known sculptor, began the Mother Earth project with a sculpture that now adorns the Georgetown waterfront with a fine view over the Potomac. He and his family conceived the project as a way to encourage countries to develop actions to stop climate change. Each participating country places a Mother Earth sculpture in its major cities as a symbol of commitment. Countries submit their actions to the United Nations, and the Mother Earth Project

website posts these accomplishments on its Country Achievements page. He is also engaged in another project, Parachutes for the Planet. Inspired by the AIDS quilt, the project involves collecting hand-crafted parachutes created by individuals, schools, and other organizations to raise awareness of people's stories of living sustainable lives and how they are affected by climate change. Locally he is planning a Parachutes event for Earth Day on the National Mall. If you would like to participate with your own parachute, you can find out how at his site: <http://motherearthproject.org/parachutes/>.

To learn more about these talks, please watch the video!

Somerset to Co-Sponsor District 1 Candidates Forum

By Council President Marnie Shaul (*Uppingham*)

Somerset is joining at least 10 other nearby towns and neighborhoods to co-sponsor a County Council District 1 Candidates Forum on **Wednesday, March 14**. Somerset was asked by the town of Chevy Chase to co-sponsor this opportunity for our residents to get to know the candidates. All eight Democratic candidates have been invited and have agreed to participate in the forum. The Republican candidate has also been invited.

The Forum will be held on March 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the National 4-H Center Auditorium on Connecticut Avenue. Somerset residents who would like to pose questions to the candidates should send their questions to the Town Manager by March 1. Somerset must submit its questions by March 2. The Town of Chevy Chase's Long Range Planning Committee will review all questions and determine a final set of questions to pose to the candidates.

MARCH CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

First Council budget review work session
Noon to 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

B-CC High School Used Book Sale
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
4301 East West Highway, Bethesda

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

B-CC High School Used Book Sale
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
4301 East West Highway, Bethesda

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Second Council budget review work session
Noon to 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall

District 1 County Council Candidates Forum
7:00 p.m. at National 4-H Center
7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase

MONDAY, MARCH 19

MVA Mobile Office at Friendship Heights
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Town Urges County Master Planners Not to Reclassify Dorset Avenue

By Elizabeth Hurwit, *Dorset Avenue*

Transportation planners have been reviewing and revising the Montgomery County Master Plan of Highways and Transitways (MPOHT), the document that classifies each Montgomery County road in the transportation network. The first comprehensive update since 1955, this effort seeks to consolidate sector plans that have been adopted over the years, rectify discrepancies in roadway classifications, and review the current functional status of roadways throughout the county.

Among the proposed updates is reclassification of Dorset Avenue from secondary or unclassified road to primary residential road. The comparison chart below shows the standards associated with various classifications. Reclassification of Dorset Avenue to primary street status would allow for up to 50 percent cut-through traffic, as opposed to the street's present "limited" allowance.

At a public meeting at the Town Hall on February 13, 2018, Stephen Aldrich, County Master Planner for Transportation Planning, confirmed that reclassification of Dorset Avenue would provide no advantage to the Town and could, in fact, require Dorset to adhere to standards

such as the 70-foot right-of-way should redevelopment of a block of houses on the street or some other future (if unlikely) major change occur.

Meeting participants **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin**, **Council President Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham), and **Ad Hoc Traffic Committee Chair Elizabeth Hurwit** concluded that allowing Dorset Avenue to be reclassified with the potential to officially recognize it as a commuter street was not in the Town's best interest.

At the recommendation of Mr. Aldrich, Mayor Slavin and Ms. Hurwit testified before the Montgomery County Planning Board at a public hearing on February 15, 2018, opposing the proposed reclassification of Dorset Avenue and requesting it be removed from the MPOHT update.

The Planning Board and Master Planners considered until February 22, 2018, and it seems likely they will remove reclassification of Dorset from the final MPOHT presented to the County Council at the end of March. If the reclassification is not removed, Town representatives will need to submit additional testimony to the County Council during its public sessions in April.

Road Functional Classification — Comparison of Geometric and Operational Characteristics

| Functional Hierarchy | No. Lanes | Minimum Right of Way (feet) | Control of Access | Divided Roadway? | Percent Through Traffic ¹ | Through Traffic Restrictions Considered? ² | Traffic Calming Considered? ³ | Heavy Truck Restrictions Considered? ⁴ |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Freeway (per AASHTO) | 4 - 12 | 250 - 300 | Interchanges Only | Always | 50%+ | Not Required | Not Required | No |
| Controlled Major Highway | 6 - 8 | 150 | Interchanges and Public Road Intersections | Always | 50%+ | Not Required | Not Required | No |
| Parkway | 4 | 120 | Interchanges and Public Road Intersections | Always | 50%+ | Not Required | Not Required | No |
| Major Highway | 4 - 6 | 120 - 150 | Driveway access acceptable in denser suburban and urban areas | Always | 50%+ | Not Required | Not Required | No |
| Arterial | 2 - 4 | 80 - 120 | Some access to abutting property is expected | Typical | 50%+ | Not Required | Not Required | No |
| Minor Arterial | 2 - 3 | 70 | Access to abutting property is expected | No | 50%+ | Not Required | Yes (Type 3) | MCDOT decision |
| Primary Residential Street | 2 | 70 (100) | Access to abutting property is expected | Allowed | ≤50% | Yes | Yes (Type 2) | Yes |
| Secondary Streets (not in MPOHT) | 2 | 60 | Access to abutting property is expected | No | Limited | Yes | Yes (Type 1) | Yes |
| Tertiary Streets (not in MPOHT) | 2 | 21 - 50 | Access to abutting property is expected | No | 0% | Yes | Yes (Type 1) | Yes |

County Code Reference

LMC §49-32d

LMC §49-31

LMC §49-30

LMC §49-30

Notes: 1. COMCOR §49.28.01 - Context Sensitive Design Standards. 2. Measurements provided for undivided and (divided or dual) roads. 3. Traffic calming governed by Montgomery County Code, Chapter 49, Sec. 49-30. 4. MCDOT Memorandum -Policy Regarding the Installation of "No Through Trucks over 3/4 Ton" Regulations on County Roads, dated 1/12/81.

Public Meeting Held on Town Hall Renovation

By Council President Marnie Shaul, Uppingham Street

Lou Balodemas, of Balodemas Architects, who has worked with the Town on other projects, presented the results of his firm's work for improvements to the Town Hall on February 12. The Mayor, Council, Town Manager and representatives of the Town's Budget and History Committees saw sketch plans for the renovation of the second floor and reviewed estimates for that work and for

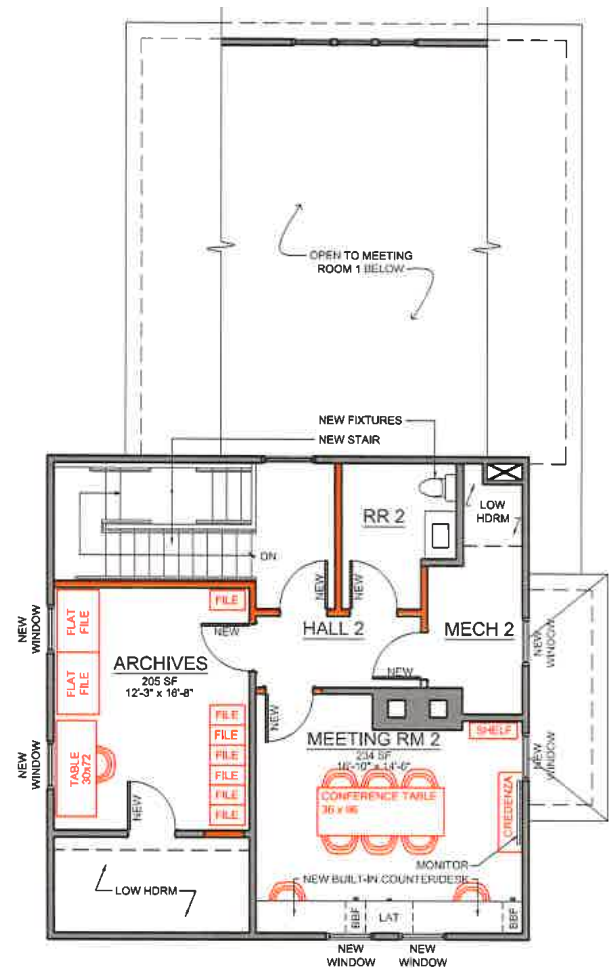
Town Hall maintenance, which the Council had previously approved and budgeted for. (See the October 2017 Town Journal article by **Council Member Barbara Zeughauser [Trent]** about the project.)

Maintenance of the Town Hall includes a new roof, window replacement, selective siding replacement, and painting and is projected to cost about \$135,000. The proposed

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN - NEW WORK



SECOND FLOOR PLAN - NEW WORK

| LEGEND | |
|--------|--|
| | EXISTING CONSTRUCTION / FURN. / EQUIP. TO REMAIN |
| | EXISTING CONSTRUCTION / FURN. / EQUIP. TO BE REMOVED |
| | EXISTING FURN. / EQUIP. TO BE RELOCATED |
| | NEW CONSTRUCTION |
| | NEW FURN. / EQUIP. |

Public Meeting Held on Town Hall Renovation

renovation would create usable space on the second floor and would provide heating and cooling, which does not currently exist. It would provide proper storage space for the Town's archives and history displays. The cost of this work is estimated to be about \$243,000, for a total cost of about \$378,000. The Council budgeted \$190,000 in this fiscal year for work on the Town Hall and would need to budget for the remaining work in the FY2019 budget. The Budget Committee will be looking at the overall impact of the renovation as the Town prepares its next fiscal year budget.

Key dates for the project's consideration are:

- March Council meeting—Council considers whether to approve moving forward.
- May Council meeting—Council considers bids and votes on FY19 budget, which could include additional funds for the upstairs renovation.

If residents would like to review the sketch plans and construction budget, both are available at the Town Hall.

SAVE THE DATES

MONDAY, APRIL 2

Nomination of Candidates at Council Meeting

By Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Chair, Board of Supervisors of Elections, Cumberland Avenue

Mark your Calendars! On Tuesday, May 8, the Town will hold an election for Mayor and two Council seats. **Barbara Condos** (Falstone) and **Dudley Fowlkes** (Falstone) have announced that they will not seek re-election to the Town Council. Nominations for these two positions will be accepted at the Council meeting on April 2. Additional nominations

TUESDAY, MAY 8

Town Election

may be made if 20 registered voters sign a petition and it is filed with the Town Manager by April 17.

The Town Charter requires its elected officials to be:

- Citizens of the United States
- Residents of the Town of Somerset for at least 18 months preceding the election
- Qualified voters in the Town of Somerset and the State of Maryland



Manager's Corner

By Rich Charnovich, *Town Manager*

Proposed Maintenance Work on Bridge near Town Pool Update

At the January Town Council Meeting, a contract was entered into to perform maintenance work on the bridge near the Town Pool before the 2018 pool season commences. Contract details and timing are still being finalized. It is anticipated the work will take place at some point in April 2018. Public notice will be provided in advance of the start date.

Underwater Lights Capital Project at Town Pool

At the February Town Council Meeting, a capital project was approved to replace underwater lighting in the Town pool and perform associated concrete work. The work is scheduled to take place before the pool opens for the 2018 season.

FY19 Budget and Five-Year Fiscal Plan

In the next few months, Town officials will be working on the FY19 budget and five-year fiscal plan. There are currently two budget workshop sessions scheduled: **Wednesday, March 7 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 14 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall. Any interested member of the public is invited to attend.

New Election Process in 2018 for Town Elected Officials

Please be aware that a recent Town Charter amendment changed the scheduling of the election for Mayor and Town Council members. The election this year will be on **Tuesday, May 8, 2018**. Please follow upcoming *Town Journal* articles and email notices with information on candidates, voting hours, etc. This year, two Council seats and the Mayor are up for election. Please also see the save-the-dates notice in this issue of the *Journal* for further details.

Text Message Alerts Reminder

Following up on recent *Town Journal* articles and email notices, please contact the Town Hall if you are interested in signing up for text message alerts.

Montgomery County Leash Law and Cleaning Up after Pets

This is a friendly reminder that it's illegal not to clean up after pet waste in the community. Dog waste must be cleaned up on private property and in public spaces. Also, dogs must be kept on a leash when not on the owner's premises. Thank you for complying with these laws and for being a good neighbor. Please visit the Montgomery County website for a comprehensive list of pet laws at this link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/asd/laws.html>

Parking Near Driveways: Montgomery County Law

Town Hall is periodically contacted concerning cars parking too close to driveways. This is a friendly reminder: we hope neighbors can be courteous when parking on the street near driveways. Vehicles cannot be parked within five feet of a driveway. If necessary, call the police non-emergency number, and officers can write a ticket and/or locate the owner and have the car moved.

Updating Email Addresses

It is important to make sure we have the email addresses for as many of our residents here in Somerset as possible. We find it an important way for our government to communicate with residents. If you want to provide the Town Hall with your email address or update your email address, please email us at town@townofsomerset.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration and cooperation.

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



This month marks the exciting debut of our newest columnist, **Eugene Tillman** (Warwick), who will be writing *All About People* on a monthly basis. Over the past month, Eugene has been actively seeking news from and about anyone in your households, especially about careers, hobbies and/or lifecycle events. I hope Town residents' willingness to share information will continue. Keep in mind that the Journal deadline is the 15th of every month for submission of articles, so please always write him sooner rather than later at allaboutsomerset@gmail.com, so that we can all share in the collective happiness.

Earlier this month I had a jam-packed week when I attended four conferences in metro DC, all of relevance to someone in our culturally and actively diverse municipality, including events for the U.S. Conference of Mayors (usmayors.org), Creating Change, sponsored by the National LGBTQ Task Force (creatingchange.org), Montgomery History (montgomeryhistory.org) and the Women's Legislative Briefing, co-hosted by the MoCo Commission for Women (info at the County's website). If anyone is interested in one or more of these groups, please get in touch with me and I will give you info or answer questions.

This is my annual reminder: the Somerset listserv is private and independent (although "endorsed" by the Town government), thereby creating an opportunity for residents to recommend commercial ventures and/or make political statements. I do want to alert everyone, though, that specific questions about Town services or policy should not be addressed to the listserv. **Please** contact the Town Manager at manager@townofsomerset.com, the Council at council@townofsomerset.com or me at

mayor@townofsomerset.com whenever such questions arise. Failure to do so can create unnecessary delays in response. In addition, **Sarah Morse** (Dorset), who does an excellent job overseeing this listserv, periodically sends out messages saying that many of us (including me) don't always follow the strict guidelines. I pledge to do a better job of that this year.

Another annual reminder: When a loved one passes, the Council, Staff and I are ready to be of assistance at this time of sadness. Among other things, we can help publicize memorial services, contact neighbors, and provide space in the Journal for obituaries. We are sorry when you have a loss and hope to assist in lessening burdens wherever possible.

The Council and I enjoyed the Brown Bag Lunch earlier this month and all members were present! There was lots to talk about, and the food was delicious. Hope more of you will put future lunches on your calendars.

In the past year I have again stepped up use of my Twitter account. Many of the issues I write about are relevant to Somerset. I encourage all of the "tweeters" in Town to follow me at @jzslavin. I will be happy to follow you back.

There are always many fascinating forums, presentations and lectures in the area during Black History Month and I trust that many took advantage. We are also fortunate to have one of the best museums in the United States just a metro or bike ride away: the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It's still "admission by ticket only" at this time, but if you need tips on how to facilitate the admission process, please get in touch with me.

Somerset on TV

As many residents know, Somerset participates with Montgomery Municipal Cable TV Channel 16 in a series of interviews with Town residents who have fascinating stories to share. **Somerset Stories** can be seen on Wednesdays at 10:00 p.m. and can be viewed on MMCTV's website: <https://www.mmctv.org/programs/>

And Somerset is also represented in another Channel 16 program: **The Art Scene** with host and Somerset resident **Lila Snow** (Essex). Lila covers art, books, film and TV. Her show airs on Mondays at 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 12:15 p.m. and also streams to the website at www.mmctv.org. Click on video then scroll to *The Art Scene* and choose an episode.



All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*

Greetings and welcome to my inaugural column. I want to thank Mayor Slavin and the Journal editors for their introductions of me over the past two issues. I'm honored to follow in the footsteps of several others who have done a superb job in keeping our community well informed about our neighbors.

In addition to neighborhood news, this column and others to follow will include profiles of Somerset residents or others closely connected with our community. Looking ahead, I'm counting on your help in identifying individuals with rich and varied stories! This installment spotlights **NFL Coach Mike Rutenberg** who grew up here. His parents, **Debbie and Jon** (Trent), have resided in the Town for 33 years.



I caught up with Mike between the NFL Championship Games and the Super Bowl. Mike is the Defensive Assistant for the Jacksonville Jaguars which had just come off a tough defeat against the New England Patriots for the AFC Championship. Mike assists both the Defensive Coordinator and the Linebacker Coach.

When I asked why he chose his career path, Mike said, "This is all I ever wanted to do." Over time, he's come to savor the camaraderie with players, coaches, and staff. He likewise "enjoys the grind" of the teamwork and planning leading up to game day. When I asked about the milestones in his career to date, Mike expressed his deep gratitude toward a long list of people who believed in him at key moments, including coaches, owners, and general managers. Mike has done tours of duty with the Redskins, the UCLA Bruins, the New Mexico State Aggies, and most recently the Jaguars.

Mike is a competitor and admits the toughest part of his job is losing a game. While winning produces "feelings beyond words," he also finds great satisfaction in the process leading up to each game – working with the coaches and players to identify the challenges and develop a game plan and then watching it in practice and continuing to refine it. I asked how he dealt with the loss to the Patriots, and he said, "I'm still trying to figure it out. It's hard and it hurts." He has great respect for the Patriots and was honored to be part of a team that made it to a championship game.

Mike and his wife, Stacey, regularly visit family in Somerset. From his childhood, Mike remembers a strong sense of community in the Town. He fondly recalls the Back to School Classic races, games on the school playground, and time at the pool. He loves to come back and still gets the same warm community vibe.

And finally, some important news: Mike and Stacey are expecting their first child, a little girl, in June. It's an exciting time for Debbie, Jon, and the rest of the family as well.

In the new resident department, a warm welcome to **Matt and Naomi Green** (Warwick) and their three children: **Kobi** (6), **Ebony** (4), and **Savanna** (2). The family moved here from Melbourne, Australia, taking up residence in January. Matt is with the Australian Navy and the son of Air Force parents. The house on Warwick Place is the 38th in which he has lived since birth! Matt is an engineer and will be working with the U.S. Navy during his two-to-three-year stint in our area. Naomi grew up in London, has written children's books (under the name **Naomi Kissiedu-Green**), and was a model before having children (which included participation in the Australian version of *Project Runway*).

The January edition of this column announced the arrival of **Garrett Levin** and **Virginia Frasure** (Greystone) and their two children. The family moved here from Alexandria, VA, to be closer to the German School in Potomac, which their children will attend. Virginia has dual American and German citizenship as do the children. Virginia and Garrett are both lawyers - she with the Office of Legal Advisor in the State Department and he with the National Association of Broadcasters.

Continued on page 10

All About People

The January column likewise mentioned the arrival of **Maryam Mokhtarzadeh** and **Jeremiah Helm** and their three children (Dorset). The move was a short hop from Highland House East in Friendship Heights. They were ready to transition to home ownership, and walks through the Town convinced them it would be a great place to live and raise children. Maryam is an ophthalmologist who works as a senior medical officer in the Office of Combination Products in the Food and Drug Administration. She also engages in clinical practice at the National Institutes of Health. Jeremiah has a PhD in chemistry and a law degree. He previously worked in the Patent and Trademark Office and is currently an intellectual property litigator in the Washington, D.C. office of Knobbe Martens.

As I wrap up my first column, I have a request: Please think of me whenever you hear interesting stories about people in our community and please get in touch. I would love to hear from you. My phone number is in the directory, and you can reach me by email at allaboutsomerset@gmail.com.



Paige Whitley (Cumberland) and **David Kathan** (Dorset) created the exhibit, The Forgotten African American Community of River Road, at Town Hall

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOZEMAN, MONTANA: Awesome Every Season! Ski Big Sky & the Bridgers! Fly fishing. Trail rides. White-water rafting. Hiking/biking everywhere. Enjoy our 4-bedroom home on 20 acres with spectacular 360-degree vistas. Four-night minimum stay. Just four miles to downtown Bozeman. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at SRPVacationHomes@gmail.com or 301-652-1207.

PARIS, FRANCE: Picturesque Day and Nite! And more affordable than ever! Enjoy our one-bedroom apartment in the 2nd arrondissement — the heart of historic Paris. Walk to the Louvre, the Pompidou Center, the Seine and two Metro stops. Four-night minimum stay. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at SRPVacationHomes@gmail.com or 301-652-1207.

LIFESTYLE AND WELLNESS COACHING: Would you like to get unstuck and upgrade your lifestyle and wellness habits? Small changes can make a lasting difference. If you are curious to see if coaching is right for you contact Certified Wellness Coach **Diane Horn RDH CHHC** at 301-654-0310 or diane.b.horn@gmail.com.

HAVING TROUBLE WITH TECHNOLOGY? Let me untangle it for you. Hire your own personal technology concierge, who helps you figure out what to buy, how it works, and keep it working. I am available for any question or issue. Call **Jonathan Horn** at 202-557-1151, or email Jon.m.horn@gmail.com.

WINTERGREEN, VIRGINIA RESORT: vrbo.com/757252. 9 BR/9.5 baths. Wintergreen's premier Mountaintop Lodge. Seasonal Blue Ridge views. Ideal for retreats, reunions, vacations, couples weekends; ski, golf, tennis, spa, hiking getaways. Enormous decks, floor-to-ceiling windows, natural woodwork, soaring Great Room. Near outstanding Nelson County micro-brewery/vineyard route near Charlottesville. **Bob Gage** at rgage@cov.com; 202-744-5943.

SEA COLONY - BETHANY BEACH - EDGEWATER BUILDING OCEAN FRONT: 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Sunday to Sunday rentals - \$2,900 per week (Somerset special price) Call 301-233-2727, **Luba Marx**.

Ads are printed as a courtesy to Town residents. The Town makes no representations as to quality, safety or otherwise regarding the goods and services advertised. Readers should make their own inquiries. To place an ad, submit typed or neatly printed copy to the Clerk-Treasurer. Ads must include a Somerset phone number. Price: \$5 per advertisement per issue. Check or exact change. Fifty word limit per advertisement.

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on February 5, 2018. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the January 2, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the 2018 Town Election date of Tuesday, May 8, 2018.
3. Approval of a recommendation of the Town Council acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission on an application submitted for 4709 Dorset Avenue, to complete the following scope of work:
 - Demolish the existing 1-story addition and deck to allow for a new 2-story rear addition
 - Construct a new detached garage in the rear yard (extension of existing driveway)
 - Install a swimming pool and fence surrounding the pool
4. Approval of a plan amendment for the project currently occurring at 5813 Surrey Street to remove 1 Tulip Poplar tree as recommended by the Town Arborist, with the reforestation of 1 canopy tree.
5. Approval of a building permit extension request submitted for the project currently occurring at 4818 Cumberland Avenue until July 1, 2018.
6. Approval of the removal of a tree removal application submitted by PEPCO to remove the following 2 trees: 1 Ash tree in Capello Park near Dorset and Wisconsin Avenue and 1 Ash tree in Vinton Park near Dorset and Wisconsin Avenue.
7. Adoption of a Resolution establishing a policy for Historic Area Work Permit review by the Town Council acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission (copy of policy available in the Town Hall).
8. Approval of a proposal submitted by Sabra Wang and Associates at a cost of \$3,848.00 to analyze the intersection of Warwick Lane and Cumberland Avenue. The Village of Drummond has committed to funding half of the cost of the joint traffic and pedestrian safety project.
9. Approval of a contract with Community Pool Service for management of the Town Pool for the 2018 season.
10. Approval of a proposal submitted by Community Pool Service at a cost not to exceed \$27,600.00 to replace the conduit and wiring for 6 underwater lights at the Town Pool.
11. Approval of sledding hill rules on Cumberland Avenue for the 2018 winter season.
12. Approval to support a joint letter being sent by the Montgomery County Municipal League Chapter concerning tax duplication that will be sent to the Montgomery County Council.
13. Mayor Slavin provided his report. Town Manager Charnovich provided administrative and financial reports. An amendment to the current Town Tree planting policy was tabled to undertake further review. An update on the General Code Town Charter and Code project was discussed. A closed session was held to obtain legal advice from the Town Attorney concerning a personnel matter and proposed amendments to the pool rules.

Somerset's Helping Hand Is Just an Email or Phone Call Away

If you need a ride, someone to pick up some groceries or a prescription, a ride to the Metro, or even if you just want to get to a friend's house, please contact **Somerset Helping Hand**. We have a list of 30 Somerset volunteers who can help.

Send an email to HHSomerset@gmail.com or call **Barbara Zeughauser** at 301-951-8560, **Kathleen Kenyon** at 301-656-8581 or **Jim Berry** at 301-656-6089.

If you would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please send an email to HHSomerset@gmail.com.



Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting Somerset Town Hall, Monday, March 5, 2018

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall. Agenda updates are posted on the Town website: www.townofsomerset.com.

- **Council Work Session–7:00 p.m.**
- **Council Meeting Convenes–7:30 p.m.**
- **Comments: Public Comment Period–7:30 p.m.***



Council Members: Barbara Zeughauser, Franny Peale, Dudley Fowlkes, Marnie Shaul, Barbara Condos

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider approval of the February 5, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. **Motion:** To consider approval setting the Spring bulk refuse pick-up date for Monday, May 7, 2018.
3. **Motion:** To consider approval of a 2018 Arbor Day Proclamation.

NON-CONSENT

4. **Discussion:** Town Manager February Administrative and Financial Reports - 7:35 p.m.
5. **Discussion:** Swim Team 2018 Budget - 7:45 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a variance application submitted for 5415 Trent Street. The applicants are requesting a 1'0" setback variance at the south east corner of the lot - 7:50 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a variance application submitted for 5415 Trent Street. The applicants are requesting a 3'-4.5" setback variance at north east side of the lot - 8:00 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a variance application submitted for 5415 Trent Street. The applicants are requesting a 4'-10" setback variance at the north side of the lot - 8:10 p.m.

9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of a HVAC unit permit that has been installed at 4901 Dorset Avenue and has met the required noise test - 8:20 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To authorize Balodemas Architects to go to bid for proposed exterior and interior work at the Town Hall - 8:25 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval setting the tennis court permit fee for 2018 at \$25.00 as recommended by the Tennis Committee (no change from 2017) - 8:35 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval entering into a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Tennis Courts for the 2018 season - 8:40 p.m.
13. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval entering into a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool for the 2018 season - 8:45 p.m.
14. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider sending a letter to Montgomery County opposing reclassification of Dorset Avenue from a secondary or unclassified road to a primary residential road within its Highway Master Plan - 8:50 p.m.
15. **Discussion:** General Code Update - 8:55 p.m.
16. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report - 9:00 p.m.
17. **Adjourn** - 9:05 p.m.

KEY

Public Hearing Item: Agenda item where public comment is permitted.

Discussion Item: Agenda item limited to discussion among the Council, Mayor and Town Staff.

Motion Item: Agenda item requesting action, limited to Council discussion.

Comments: Opinions and Questions from Town residents.

*Residents who wish to be present for a particular Agenda item are advised to arrive 20 minutes ahead of the item's scheduled discussion time since discussions sometimes run ahead of schedule.

This is a preliminary Agenda prepared to meet the Journal press deadline, which typically is two to three weeks prior to the next Town Council meeting. During this period, there will likely be changes to the timing of items, and some items may be added or deleted. Please contact Rich Charnovich at Town Hall if you are interested in what has been added, or consult the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch or the Town website/email blast for the most up-to-date Agenda.

The Mayor and Town Council may entertain a motion during the open meeting to close a portion of the meeting, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) of the Open Meetings Act (Maryland Code, General Provisions Article), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The Preliminary Agenda for each month's Town Council meeting is posted on the Town website (www.townofsomerset.com) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.